

**Surma Valley Branch
INDIAN TEA ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31st December, 1945. - 46

Including a list of Tea Estates, Members
of the Association and Branch
Committees corrected to
30th June, 1946.

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Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch.

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*PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at Silchar, on Wednesday, the 28th February, 1946.*

PRESENT :

Mr. A. F. Bendall (*Chairman.*)

Mr. T. W. T. Street (Vice Chairman)	Mr. J. Murray.
„ H. T. Dominy.	„ D. W. Lancaster.
„ J. H. Walker.	„ J. Armour.
„ H. G. Webb.	„ J. P. Ireland.
„ S. A. Pearson.	„ R. D. Neilson.
„ R. Leask.	„ Jas. Watson.
„ G. C. K. Merry,	„ C. T. Cramphorn.
„ J. Forbes.	„ H. N. Mackenzie.
„ S. C. Dey.	„ L. McHardy.
„ S. K. Deb.	„ R. R. Deuchars.
„ W. P. Archibald.	„ J. R. Clark.
„ E. T. Geer.	„ H. G. Wright.
„ J. W. Mckay.	„ B. M. Gupta.
„ W. T. Sturrock.	„ D. R. Smith.
„ G. A. Ferrier.	„ J. K. Elliot.
„ A. Skene.	„ J. W. Boyack.
„ G. Kydd, M. L. A.	„ H. N. Anderson.
„ A. Prown.	„ A. M. Shaw.
„ J. Greig.	„ A. D. Hutt.
„ W. D. Rutherford, M. L. A.	„ J. Sinclair.
„ R. Godwin Smith.	„ C. Hinchcliff.
„ A. L. Glanley.	„ R. B. Thom.

Mr. H. Patterson.	Mr. W. D. S. Reid.
„ K. O. Smith.	„ W. A. Patterson.
„ R. H. Hossack.	„ G. Gordon.
„ J. S. Mercer.	„ A. T. Davies.
Col. A. B. Beddow, C. I. E.	„ W. McIver.
Mr. S. A. Morrison.	„ R. P. Spasett.
Col. A. K. Preston.	„ D. F. Jeffrey.
Mr. N. Mackenzie.	„ A. A. Ker.
„ H. F. Clark, C. I. E.	„ W. R. Hewitson.
„ R. Sen Gupta.	„ A. Mackenzie.
„ S. R. Rai.	„ L. F. Rae.
„ A. Taylor	„ J. R. Blair.
Major V. Knott.	„ I. D. P. Stephens.
Mr. M. W. Kay.	„ J. Stoneman.
„ A. Grieve.	„ C. D. Birnie.
„ J. H. Pearson.	„ C. Flanagan
„ J. B. Moir.	„ D. A. Fullerton.
„ J. P. Grant.	„ G. Wilson.
„ F. M. Anderson.	„ J. Bowhill.
„ J. B. Lees.	„ D. E. M. Saubolle.
„ W. N. Drysdale.	„ B. M. Gupta.
„ P. W. Cowie.	„ A. L. Munro.
„ A. Cleland.	

Mr. J. R. Wilson. (*Secretary*).

The following gentlemen attended the meeting by invitation of the Committee :—

E. J. Winter Esq., Advisory Officer, Tocklai Experimental Station.
 W. H. P. Morby, Esq., Joint Agent, Fenchuganj.
 N. M. Macgregor Esq., Senior Advisory Officer, Tocklai Exptl. Station
 D. C. Murray Esq., I. C. S., Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.
 A. Whittaker Esq., C. I. E., M. L. A., Political Secretary, Planting & Commerce Group, Assam Legislatures, Shillong.
 K. C. Datta Esq., Assistant Labour Commissioner, Assam.

A. Butterfield Esq., District Traffic Superintendent, Badarpur.
 B. A. Railway.

S. M. Deb Esq., M. L. A. Silchar.

Dr. Domanowicz, Medical Officer, Chutla Bheel Medical Association.

A. H. Burnett Esq., Messrs. Duncan Bros. & Co., Calcutta.

Major P. H. Commins, I. M. S., Civil Surgeon, Cachar.

H. N. Sahu Esq., Superintendent, Central Excise, Silchar.

Major S. J. Vere-Fox, Medical Officer Labac Central Hospital.

Dr. C. G. Terrell, E. D. M. B. CII, B. (Edin) D. T. M. (Liverpool) C. B. E.,
 M. L. A., Medical Officer, Longai Valley Medical Association.

The Superintendent of Excise, Silchar.

Letters or telegrams were received from the following gentlemen regretting their inability to attend :—

P. J. Griffiths Esq., C. I. E., I. C. S. (Retd.) M. L. A. (Central).
Dr. C. G. Ramsay C. I. E., O. B. E., K. I. II., M. D., D. T. M. & II., Principal,
Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene, Calcutta, London School
of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene (London University).
A. McLaren Esq., Chairman, Indian Tea Association.
W. H. Miles Esq., Commissioner for India, Indian Tea Market
Expansion Board, Calcutta.
R. N. De Esq. Conservator of Forests, Assam.
Ali Ahmed Esq., I. S. E., Provincial Motor Transport Controller, Assam.
A. S. R. Pillai Esq., Controller of Emigrant Labour, Assam.
J. K. Datta Esq., Under Secretary to the Govt. of Assam Supply
Department.
R. S. Vipan Esq., Regional Controller of Priorities, Govt. of India.
P. B. Purkayastha, B. SC. (Eng.), A. M. I. Mech. E. A. I. Mar. E.
Chief Inspector of Boilers, Assam.
J. S. Gunning Esq., O. B. E., I. C. S., Commissioner of Divisions, Assam.
A. M. Dam Esq., Sub-Divisional Officer, Hailakandi.
M. Mashad Esq., Sub-Divisional Officer, Habiganj.

Dr. W. B. Anderson, Medical Officer, Luskerpore Valley Medical Assn.
Dr. R. K. Chaudhuri " " " Chargola Tea Association Ltd.
Dr. W. N. Stirling " " " Balisera Valley Medical Assn.
Dr. N. N. Ghose " " " Lungla " " "
Dr. B. Chatterjee " " " Chargola " " "
Col. C. S. P. Hamilton, R. A. M. C. (Retd.) Juri " " "
The Secretary, Terai Planters Association.

Mr. A. F. Bendall, the Chairman, addressed the meeting as follows :—

GENTLEMEN,

It is a great pleasure on behalf of the Surma Valley Branch to extend a very warm welcome to our guests today.

It is with great regret that I have to inform you of Mr. McLaren, the Calcutta Chairman's inability to attend today due to pressure of affairs. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my own personal appreciation of the kindly assistance he has always given me on the several visits I have had to make to Calcutta when I have called upon him at the I. T. A. Office in consultation on Branch matters. After the discussion, one leaves with that definite feeling that "we belong" very comforting when one realises what a big organisation the Indian Tea Association is.

Mr. D. C. Murray pays us his first visit as Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, and I express the hope that his term of service amongst us will enable him to attend more future meetings. We have to thank him for his every ready help when advice is needed, and for assisting us in getting suitable accommodation for our Branch headquarters when the military started derequisitioning the buildings they had taken over.

Mr. K. C. Dutta, Deputy Labour Commissioner of Assam Government is not on his first visit. Many of us have met him several times when he has been in the area collecting the sort of information that Government Departments thrive upon, and you will have found

him a keen and careful officer, very knowledgeable and able to see both sides to all questions put to him. As we regard all labour matters of the utmost importance, he is always welcome at our meetings.

It is some time now since we had a representative from our Scientific Department ; it is good to know that our officers are getting back safely from their war service and we are glad to see Mr. Winter with us today. We hope we shall be seeing more of them. Mr Morbey has been here before, but Mr. Butterfield, for the railways pays his first visit. We give a strong welcome to all our visitors.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Messrs. Cowie, Danter and Shaw, all well known and well liked planters.

During the course of the war period Assam has figured largely in the several honours lists and on your behalf I have sent congratulations. We were very pleased at the knighthood conferred on Mr. Dennehy, Chief Secretary of the Government of Assam, and also to the very local honours awarded to Mr. Khurshid, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, and to Mr. Blacklaws and Dr. Terrell.

There will, of course, be a general satisfaction that the fighting part of the war is over in our immediate neighbourhood. We now have the aftermath of war to contend with, which though not necessarily stained by loss of life and destruction of property, will nevertheless require, that same amount of careful thinking and organisation if we are to bring it to as successful a pitch as we did the war. We express our gratitude and appreciation to all the services who together brought us this victory. We take pride at the privilege given to us to help the services to this end, and by the experience we gained, we feel qualified to give practical assistance and guidance in the future "Peace Project". It is with great pride and satisfaction that we welcome back our members of the Forces who are now by degrees getting back to their gardens. They have done a good job as was expected of them. Many of them have brought back a wife, and we extend a warm welcome to them too. Whilst they have been away, things have altered somewhat—they won't find things exactly as they were when they joined up, and it will be necessary to look around and again appreciate the position and so better accommodate themselves to this new atmosphere and condi-

tions on tea estates, so that we can all work together with that same congenial spirit as before.

Four Indian owned gardens joined the Association during the year making a total membership of 177 Estates representing 1,34,541 acres under Tea. Our Association now represents 94.18% of the tea planted in the Surma Valley. Other gardens have applied and your committee has under consideration the admission of estates which, though geographically are in the Surma Valley, are not politically a part of Sylhet or Cachar.

The whole industrial world seems at the moment to be in a state of turmoil over the question of wages. We have information that the Government of India have plans to introduce legislation to stabilise earnings in this country. Where purely industrial labour is concerned, the matter may be fairly straight-forward, but amongst agricultural labour many small but important factors present themselves, which collectively have a big bearing on this subject. In a factory, the worker clocks in and clocks out, and if he doesn't turn up at all for a few days, he may get the sack. On a tea garden the labourer leads his own type of busti life—he doesn't start work until he has tended his cows and put the goats out, he takes several days off when he thinks his khet needs his attention, and on the other days, he does just that amount of work that he feels like doing—He hasn't got to worry about next week's rent. There is no legal ban, as yet, on absenteeism. We hope that when the Government gets down to details of their scheme, they will invite the assistance of those well experienced in the organising of agricultural work, and so frame the law to protect the labourer from his own "laissez faire". In working out a schedule of rates of pay, it is not merely one of hours put in per day ; the essential point is the productivity of the worker. During the year it was my pleasure to meet Dr. Sastri, an expert on statistics sent by the Government from that department in Delhi. I put before him all the usual conditions of tea garden life, work, pay and accountancy, with the object of eventually being able to frame a much more efficient type of wages return than that at present required by Government, so that ordinary persons, as well as Government officers and politicians, could get a much more precise

impression of what a tea garden labourer gets, what he is able to get, and incidentally what he missed getting and why.

The Tea Industry takes pride at maintaining its record of Industrial peace, having the lowest number of days lost through strikes than any industry in India. We should like to see their cost of living coming down, and a bigger range of goods available in the garden bazaars. Great credit is due to the huge labour force of the Industry for the general contentment they have displayed through all these war trials, a factor which encourages us all the more to continue to look after their interests. It is interesting to note that at the recent elections, exhortations were made to the labour to strike, that candidate being the one who could show them how to do it--not only did this candidate not get in but his supporters' conveyance was overturned and that was not within tea garden.

We still await Mr. Rege's report of his tour through the tea area. Very much work had to be put in to collect all the information he asked for, and we hope it can be put to some really useful benefit to all concerned in the Industry. Comrade Mrs. Mukherjee one of the secretaries to the Indian Trade Union movement, paid a visit to the Valley which no doubt was the cause of the enthusiasm aroused in the local union bodies for a time.

In view of the big sums paid out annually by the Tea Industry as Income Tax, Agricultural Income Tax and Local Rates etc, it is to be hoped that the Government will introduce more in the way of amenities, give us better roads, better schools with an improved cadre of teachers to select from a strong propaganda drive in the areas immediately adjacent to tea estates so that the villagers will be taught to adopt those same measures of hygiene and malaria control that we have on the tea gardens in order that our good work will not be so much discounted as it is at present by its sudden cessation immediately beyond our boundaries.

We still see miles of telephone wire rotting on the road sides, gradually being pilfered, which might have been useful for the telephone service we have asked for. The higher Post Office authorities are

apparently too busy designing Victory Stamps, which are still difficult to get in our up-country post offices, to bother about telephone system so sanction for the district survey is not yet to hand.

In the meantime, you are asked to give to the local Post and Telegraphs engineer, who will make this survey, all the assistance you can in the matter of transport throughout your districts, so that the costs of the two pool schemes can be quickly worked out. Also, when the Superintendent of the Post Offices has time to look our way we should like him to devise a speedier local sorting system ; letters sent to me from a very short distance away cannot apparently be sorted near at hand, but have to go right down to Akhaura in Bengal ; then come back again mostly two days later. You all have that experience. Under the post-war construction scheme we hope to see much improvement in the efficiency of all Government Departments to give us a better return for our money and this will have a happy repercussion to the benefit of all employed on tea estates. The Government coming into power will no doubt, insist upon this internal efficiency so that all governed will benefit.

We rather hope that the end of the war will bring a truce in the form filling campaign. As government departments are sometimes controlled by very sporting officers, it is suggested they arrange a sort of competition amongst themselves—on which department could flourish with the lowest number of forms issued. Any scheme would be welcome that would diminish the vast acreage of paper, and the many hours of office time wasted annually in this present fetish of form filling demands. As a last recourse could n't we have a Ministry of Form Economy ?

The Industry has earned a very good name over the manner in which the essential foodstuffs of the labour have been assured. Great credit is due to the proprietary interests and the London and Calcutta Tea Associations, for the very wise method adopted to maintain supplies, and to issue them at the pre-war rates so that there was never any indication of famine conditions entering a tea garden. We appreciate the whole scheme as the design of a genius. But I think the time has now come when some credit to you, the managing staff of the estates,

should be recorded. You have the work and responsibility of maintaining stocks, and issuing the rations, and you take it all in your days work. But what is not generally recognised is the unfortunate financial effect all this splendid work has had on so many of you. For some time, in the Surma Valley, we have been giving our labour two half-yearly cloth bonuses, totalling Rs. 10/-, Rs. 8/-, Rs. 4/- to the men, women and children respectively, in addition to the food price concessions. But on those estates where climatic and other conditions did not respond too favourably, and large drafts of good useful men have been kept constantly away on project work, cutting wood fuel and other work that has no bearing on cultivation, the tea crop has dropped so significantly that the expected profits of the estate have turned to a dead loss ; this, unfortunately, has a direct effect on a manager's commission and I think it should be more widely recognised that this burden of labourers amenities has been not only in the extra work a planter has had to do, but as a very definite knock at this legitimate income. It is true that labourer's earnings had to be increased, and none more keen than the planter to do this, but there is obviously something wrong when doing so, makes such a difference to the planter himself. There is amongst planters an increasing support for the view that payment by way of commission is an unsatisfactory device, and we hope that more proprietors share this view, particularly when current prospects for profit are good and would enable higher basic pays, to be sanctioned. Many of us feel that the poorer garden requires harder and more skilful work than wealthy gardens, and that this effort should be met by better pay rather than haphazard incidence of commission.

Many concerns have appreciated this to some extent by giving their European and Indian staff a useful Victory Bonus, but I understand that this has not been a unanimous action. It is subjects of this nature which draws one's thoughts to that ever-present problem of future security. In Britain, social security has become a settled fact; there is now need for parallel action by our employers here in India, so that when returning to the United Kingdom we are not branded as exiles with no benefits. On this occasion last year I made a suggestion that a very pleasant as well as beneficial way of celebrating the victorious end of the war would be the general introduction of a pension scheme

for planters. Perhaps the war has n't been over long enough for the scheme to be worked out fully, though we have no doubts that the powers that be are willing to consider such matters, because we receive hints of some firms already introducing pension ; what we would like, however, is some definite news of an actual scheme, the number of years one has to serve the industry to qualify the amount of the pension. The crippling income tax, the high purchase tax and the general high cost of living at Home, all these thing percolate through to those about to retire and it is the present feeling of insecurity amongst the older planters that has to be eased. The Darjeeling Planters Association are to be congratulated on the scheme they have circulated — most of you will have read of it in the newspaper — and we hope that due thought will be given to all the points given therein. When we have seen the wonderful organising ability of the I. T. A., the crores of rupees they handled in the building of air-fields, military roads and other projects, procuring and feeding lakhs of labourers etc, the organising of a chartered permanent scheme would seem quite within their capacity, but if they said they were not in a position to undertake the scheme, they could at least be the means of setting up another appropriate body who could be responsible for putting it into execution, just as it set up the Planters Benevolent Fund Committee. I trust that the near future will bring you more mental comfort in this direction.

The Home Leave question is still a vexatious one. There are those who consider the six months key leave scheme should be quickly extended to at least 8 months, and others, considering the post-war flying facilities would be content with reduced periods at shorter intervals.

Assam has got through the throes of its election campaign fairly peacefully. In the European Constituencies this is the first occasion on which a contest has been staged. Though we had no doubts as to the result, we congratulate Mr. Whittaker 'on retaining this seat in the legislature. We hope steps will be taken before the next election to revise the form of ballot paper so that nothing so criminally misleading appears in the instructions on the form, which on the last occasion resulted in so many votes being disqualified.

Government have hinted at big post-war schemes under their Public Health Department. Your Association has under consideration an important project of increased and improved medical facilities within the Industry and it will be interesting to see how much the two efforts can be co-ordinated. Mr. Kurshid, the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, is collecting funds for an ambitious and much-needed anti-tuberculosis scheme for this district, and we wish him every success in his efforts. May others follow suit with similar plans.

Your Committee is at present engaged in studying the labour housing problem with a view to drawing up plans that can be introduced in tea garden lines with each new building programme, for houses that would meet with the approval of the medical faculty regarding hygiene etc., that would give good service to the garden and, most important perhaps, would find favour in the eyes of the labourers who have to live in them. The recommendations of the Committee will be circulated in due course.

The Maternity Act is now law as from Sept. 1st 1945. We are indebted to Mr. Henniker-Heaton for the Note he produced to clarify for us the intricacies of the working of this law. It requires careful study by all connected with labour in Assam and careful adherence to its provision. Most of our members were giving higher benefits than required in the Act ; I hope that the gardens will take a characteristic view and maintain these higher rates.

Rations very naturally play a big part in the Labourers health scheme. One hears of more estates making up "nutrition-gardens" from which the labourers get a weekly supply of fresh vegetables, and where this is in practice, it has undoubtedly been a great success in its achievement. The purchase of rice is still a major matter in garden economy and although prices are now easier, compared with former years, losses on the resale are very great. The Grain Purchasing Officer system still continues and we owe big vote of thanks to those planters who have worked to help us to keep the rice bins full. When the Government reduced the labourers rice ration, the hardship that was apprehended did not materialise in full force ; some at first looked suspiciously at the Atta offered in place of the rice cut, but by degrees more of the

people are getting used to it as a staple food, and our Medical Officers are of the opinion that this change in diet has been an advantage. We shall have to keep a careful eye on stocks as the grain position throughout the world gives cause for much anxiety. Mustard Oil is in great demand and poor supply and we trust that the position will be improved before very long. Messrs. Shaw Wallace took on a big job and we are greatly indebted to them for the way they have served us. We trust they will get over the permit and transport difficulties to get our required supplies of oil and dhal up to the gardens very soon.

Quinine and its substitutes are now in better supply, thanks largely to the efforts of our Political Officer and it is now possible to issue for prophylactic treatment, so we look forward to the new monsoon season with less forebodings on the malaria prospect. We shall be interested to try out the new anti-malaria drugs that are about to be introduced. We have been very disappointed at not being able to get supplies of D. D. T. When the Birla Laboratories announced that they were now making it, I offered the organisation of your Branch as a means of equitably distributing the quantities they could send up amongst our Circles, but they eventually wrote that the Bengal Government had forbidden them to send any outside Bengal—which seemed a poor way of reciprocating the manner in which Assam had supplied Bengal with so much rice in her days of famine. Other supplies are in the better prospect.

The rationing of fuel oil has fortunately not been made more difficult and a certain amount of coal is coming forward, but it is still advisable to maintain a reserve of wood fuel. Thanks to the assistance given by the Forest Department, those estates with little timber grant have been able to indent for their fuel supplies from the forest officers. Restrictions have not been fully withdrawn on the supply of cement and block indents continue to be forwarded by the Branch office to the Hon'ble Regional Cement Adviser in the same way that we continue to do to the Assam Oil Advisory Committee with regard to your returns for fuel oil. I am sorry not to be able to announce that petrol rationing is over. The system of working the controlled lorries has worked well, although the Officer who receives the mileage returns seems to have little appreciation of tea garden conditions in the rains, when he

expected all vehicles on all gardens can do at least 800 miles a month with a hope that it would rise to 2000. It is a pity that he did not accept an invitation to come for a time to the districts to study actual conditions during monsoon. The Circle Transport Officers have made a good job of their organisation, and there has been very little friction. With the assistance of the Political Office, five more controlled lorries were obtained during the year and our Branch Secretary went to Gauhati to arrange for Mr. Dallman, late manager of I. T. A. Motors, to inspect and pass the vehicles before purchase, and for whose assistance we are indebted to the River Steamer Companies. More vehicles of lighter type are expected to be made available to the Industry and you are invited to send in your indentents early.

Our efforts to take advantage of the many military salvage dumps have met with little success. On these matters, correspondence counts for little—it is the man on the spot who can work the deal—and few planters have managed to be on the spot at the right moment. We are still trying for the remnants.

There has been much improvement in the surface of many of our main roads of late, but some of the "military damage" still requires to be put right. With the continued deterioration of Local Board Roads there would appear to be greater need of co-operation between the Government Department for Roads, that is the Public Works Department and the Local Board Roads. It would be pertinent to ask after all these years of bad Local Board Roads, why must there be two separate road bodies within a province. You can start your journey on a beautiful road surface fit to take a Rolls-Royce and you have to finish it on a road not fit to take a camel. We have heard a good deal about the Post-War Road Development Scheme in Assam and are glad that these are on an ambitious scale. We would however, draw Government's attention to the widening difference in the quality of road surfaces which are the responsibility of the Provincial Government and those which fall under the Local Boards. The resources of the Local Boards have not kept pace with the many demands which are being placed on them for education, health and communications and we suggest, therefore, that where Government cannot take over a Local Board a larger

grant should be made to the Local Board for its upkeep, and the conditions on which this grant is paid should be close inspection by the P. W. D. to see that an adequate road surface is maintained.

In another direction, too, we hope the P. W. D. will come to the assistance of the Local Boards, namely, by lending to Local Board on specially cheap terms, or even free, modern road making equipment which Local Boards are unable to buy out of their own resources. It is not too much to hope that the P. W. D. will find it possible to have first aid mobile equipment available for Local Boards so that repairs can be done at the most suitable time of the year and at the cheapest cost.

It should be possible for all Local Board roads to become indistinguishable from the main trunk roads. It is with much pleasure that we record the completion of the the new bridge between Patherkandi and Chandkhira. The Public Works Department have made a magnificent job of it and we should like to see many more like it throughout the Valley. One of urgent need is over the Matijuri.

Representation on Local Bodies is one of our privileges and our responsibilities ; I appeal to all members of the Branch for their continued interest in Local Board and Assembly activities. Let there be no vacancies on our representation panels. I wish to extend the thanks of the Branch to all those who have undertaken this public work over the past year, and I congratulate our newly elected representatives on these bodies. We shall watch their work with great interest.

Some Government Local Officers live under the impression that there is a manager to look after the interests of the tea garden population so they must concentrate exclusively on the interests of their busti-dwellers. That would be alright if they did not also have the controlling power over the wherewithal to exercise this solicitude. A garden manager may arrange to personally issue the ration of Kerosene to his labourers to make sure that they get it at controlled price, and unconditionally, but he first has to get his permits for the garden quota from the local Officer and therein lies the rub. We ought to be getting more Kerosene. Similarly with Standard cloth, a scheme that could be most valuable asset to the whole labouring class and one that has been greatly

appreciated by all who participate in it, is far from perfectly run from the department side. Assam depends largely on Tea; Tea depends largely on the monsoon; monsoon means wet weather. In a good monsoon the labourer brings in much leaf, but it means getting wet and she has to maintain good health, which means she should be able to change into dry clothes as soon as she comes in from work. Wet clothes amongst the bushes deteriorate quicker than those worn in more sheltered jobs, but there seems to be a distressing lack of statesmanship amongst some of the local officers in their failure to appreciate this point, saris have been the most difficult article of clothing to get on gardens, yet we see and hear of the villages and towns being kept in good supply. Due to the efforts of the political and the Branch offices, some improvement in some circles has been affected and we hope that this year we shall see a much larger proportion of all kinds of required clothes finding the way to the gardens.

We have suffered again this year very severely from the depredations of the wild elephant. Our references to the Forest Department have produced no satisfaction at all but it is now elicited that the Forest Department is concerned only with Mela Shikar and other Kheddahs, and that where actual loss to crop is concerned, application must be made to the Deputy Commissioners. This will be borne in mind next season and we hope the district officers will be in a position to do all that is necessary to assist in the protection of the labourers' rice crops.

With regard to the Railway, I wish I could have opened a note of felicity. It will be remembered that the railway representative last year went at great length to emphasise the Bengal Assam Railway has become an Army. Whilst we fully appreciate all that the several armies have done for us in winning this war, one has to remember that old adage that 'An army marches on its stomach'. Perhaps this was a quiet way of illustrating to us why the Bengal Assam Railway takes so long to get anywhere—and much more forcibly perhaps, why so much of our foodstuffs are absorbed before they reach us.

This constant pilferage has become so serious that something more than assurances are required. We are not only considering what

legal action lies at our disposal to make the railway company accept more financial responsibility, but our representative is being asked to ventilate this matter at the debate on the Railway Budget in the Central Assembly. At the receiving station it is so easy to tell the consignor that his mustard oil drums may not stand up to the bumpy track, and all the shunting that has to be done nowadays, and so a Risk Note must be signed. But when the sealed wagon is opened in the presence of the Station Master at the receiving end, and the drums are seen to have been wilfully opened, bungs lifted, holes pierced into them and practically all the contents gone, we report this to the railway authorities who refer to the risk note and say they regret that they cannot entertain any claim. The risk note was not intended to cover deliberate thefts at points of transhipment, and officers who seal up wagons knowing this to have been done, should be held fully responsible. The complacency exhibited in the printed post card has to be removed and losses paid for. The sooner we get a big road transport service as is used in Europe, the more hopeful will become the search for efficiency on the Railways.

One of the biggest scandals of recent months is the consistent disappearance of passengers luggage after arrival at Jagannathganj. There have been many people returning from Home leave who naturally have some large trunks to bring up with them, these have had to be booked and placed in the brake van at Sealdah. They are watched and seen safely on the steamer, but when that arrives at Jagannathganj it is announced that heavy luggage cannot be brought on the mail train, but must follow on the later slow train although it is passengers luggage booked to travel with the passenger. That is often the last the passenger sees of it. Considering the number of reports of these cases that have gone in, we ask why cannot the railway and their police system get down to it on the spot and check it at the starting place, if necessary re-organise the whole system and seeing that so many railway personnel are returning from military change the entire staff responsible for this maladministration.

I regret also to be informed that the railway, in its engineering department, now appears to be making trouble over tea garden labour.

During the war we were able to make a good case accepted both by the Public Works Department, the Burma Oil Co. and the high military commanders that tea garden labourers were not to be pimped under any pretext, and contractors were strictly forbidden, under penalty, to accept garden labour. From correspondence between the Manager of Urrunabund, supported by representations from the Branch Office, and the Executive Engineer of the Bengal Assam Railway at Hailong, it would appear that a contractor accepted tea garden labour from his recruiting sirdar, but on being asked to return the labour, stated that he wanted his recruiting expenses first and the Executive Engineer appears to acquiesce in this. The matter has been referred to higher authority and we shall ask the railway authorities to give us an assurance that this will not be tolerated just as the Army and the P. W. D. did.

We welcome the introduction of more slow trains which have relieved the congestion on the mail trains, particularly for the third class passengers. We shall be glad, however, to see a more rapid change over to at least a prewar comfort in travelling, full lights, clean lavatories and water taps functioning. Unless these improvements can be put in fairly rapidly, seeing that there is no longer a war to be blamed, it would seem to be indicated that passengers should get some indemnification for this continued discomfort by a reduction in fares.

Tea movements have given us little trouble and in Capt. Leech the Superintendent of Transportation we have found a most willing and helpful friend. It is with some dismay that we learn of his transfer. Before I turn to the steamers, I must take this opportunity of again pressing for the prewar service of travel to Calcutta via Chandpur and Goalundo. This demand has been so universal and as yet unheeded, that one feels that the railway talk of passengers interests is just bureaucratic cant. We want the times arranging to suit the convenience of passengers both for the change over from rail to steamer to rail and the arrival in Calcutta. Is this beyond the organising ability of the present railway higher command? If so, roll on demobilisation. With the railway you feel that the customer it never right.

With regard to the Steamers, last year at the end of the season owing to speedy drying up of the rivers, there was congestion. The trouble however, was put right fairly soon and this season has been much better. We welcome the two Advisory Committees (District and Provincial) that are being set up by the Steamer Companies, and thank them for the invitation they have given to the Branch to have representatives thereon. This should prove a very useful means both to the business community and the traveling public to get right to the administration, not only to find out faults, but to put forward constructive suggestions for better service to the public. One can understand the call for a demurrage rate to protect the wharfage and storage capacity of the carriers, but surely some consideration should be given at the same time to the lack of communications with the steamer ghats at certain times of the year, which makes it impossible to get away goods in a short time. I refer in particular to Fenchuganj where the Steamer Agent himself resides and he will know how impossible it is in the rains to get lorries from Brahmin Bazar to Fenchuganj and the difficulty of getting the railway to take away the stuff that has arrived by steamer. When the steamer coy's proposed lorry transport service comes into operation, perhaps they will be able to take steps to quickly relieve the congestion but until that happens, more consideration should be given to the time of grace allowed before demurrage charges become due.

A constructive suggestion occurs to almost every passenger travelling up from Calcutta. The disembarking arrangements at Jagannathgaoj and Serajganj are most deplorable and after that very regrettable tragedy at Diamond Harbour one would have thought that the whole system would have been examined and revised. Surely two gangways could be put down, one for the coolies with the baggage and the other for the passengers or if passengers desire to keep in touch with the coolies carrying their luggage, there should at least be a separate gangway for women and children and the sick. One sees most painful scenes in the struggle to get off the steamers, with these uncontrolled coolies pushing and pressing, regardless of whom the luggage is hitting, knocking into helpless and distressed women, who are often carrying babies or trying to steer young children off the boat, only last Friday I saw a man pushed off the gangway into the water—fortunately he could swim.

It is useless for the authorities to say that there is no need for this rush—that the train doesn't go for another hour—it is too well known that accommodation on the waiting train is limited and a strong human instinct, common to all classes of the travelling public urges one to get the train as quickly as possible. These are amongst the items which will be brought up at the Advisory Committee meetings.

Tea garden schools have made slight increase this year with a total of 141 as against 130 last year. This subject must receive increasing attention once school teachers are available.

As you will have seen from the Balance sheet the Branch is in a favourable financial position, and your Committee do not propose to recommend an increase in the rate of subscription for this year.

The Tea Planters Benevolent Fund received from this Valley a sum of Rs. 941/- as against Rs. 903/- for last year. I am glad to note this small increase, and I trust each year will witness a similar improved response for this deserving cause.

The Surma Valley War Purposes Fund has now been closed with a final allotment of Rs. 950/- to the Indian Red Cross. You will note from the final distributing list circulated that Rs. 3,72,448/13/- was collected and thanks are due to you to the collecting Circle Chairmen, to Messrs John Smeal & Co, who have so kindly done the necessary printing free of charge, and to the I. T. A. Office staff for this excellent effort.

It is my pleasure to record the loyal work given both by the I. T. A., and the Project Staff during the past year.

Although the Surma Valley Eastern Frontier Projects closed in 1945, the final closure of the Central Accounts and details cannot unfortunately be effected until the Military authorities acknowledge their sole responsibility for any late "call" (financial) references, liability to legal action etc., and this is at present under reference to Indian General Headquarters, Delhi, and we trust that action on their part will not be unduly delayed.

The Surma Valley Eastern Frontier Projects organised by this Branch not only supplied labour in hundreds of thousands to Upper Assam Projects but was also responsible for the construction and maintenance of 16 Airfields, 5 Roads and 3 other Projects, costing over 361 lakhs of rupees. This rather big financial undertaking was administered by your Branch through the Imprest Account put at our disposal by the Military Authorities. The list is a long one and much as I would like, I am unable on this occasion to name you all who worked on these Projects ; I will merely say that to the organisers, the supervisors and the labourers our very deep-felt thanks go out most sincerely, our gratitude and pride laying in that we know that our contribution played such a large part in assisting to bring the war on our front to a successful conclusion.

This Branch has long held a fine tradition of service by its members. You have been most fortunate in your General Committee, who have met regularly in full force and got through a considerable amount of useful business. I now very strongly express my appreciation to your committee for the splendid backing they have given. Most of them appear to be due for home leave this year, so it will be your business presently to choose similarly strong successors.

Very soon after this meeting last year Mr. Houston, our Secretary up to then went home on furlough. We were faced with that rather dreadful position of being without one. It was our intention, as I had announced last year, of appointing a full time Secretary, but owing to the more ambitious scheme entertained by London and Calcutta, we were much handicapped in making the appointment although I hope that in very short time he will be working amongst you. Lt. Col. J. R. Wilson who had been commanding a group of V Force Areas in Burma was sent by the Military Authorities to take over as Chief Liaison Officer of the Local Projects and has since attended to their closing down. In due course his release to civil employment came through, putting him in the position of being able to offer his services pending arrival of the full time man. We are very indebted to Mr. Wilson for his sporting effort in coming to our rescue, I would place on record a strong deep feeling of appreciation at the very efficient and willing manner in which he has carried on. I would also take this opportunity of thanking

Messrs, Duncan Brothers for allowing him to do so and I extend the hope that they will allow Mr. Wilson to carry on until the permanent man arrives. I should also like to extend appreciation and thanks to my agents Messrs James Finlay & Co, for the freedom they give to me to carry on the work—and touring—both as Chairman of the Branch and your representative on the Executive Committee of the T. D. L. A.

Two years ago, when in an emergency I took on the Chairmanship of the Branch, and wrote to Messrs. James Finlay & Co, informing them and trusting it would be alright, they promptly wrote back that it would be alright and to be able to do the job properly they were posting a senior assistant to the garden to help me out. So long as Calcutta Agents will give a proper backing we shall never lack the men to do the jobs, and our tradition will be maintained—you haven't been let down yet, and it is on that note I must close now. Let the spirit of service remain strong amongst you. This is the last time I shall be addressing you as Chairman of the Branch and I thank you for making my term of office so pleasant.

—————

Mr. A. McLaren, Chairman, I. T. A., Calcutta, being unable to attend owing to unavoidable reasons, sent his speech, which was read by the Secretary, as follows :—

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

The very comprehensive speech of your Chairman will have dealt with all the varied activities of the Branch during the year. We are fully conscious in Calcutta of the enormous amount of work which has fallen on the district Associations during the war years, but it is perhaps only when it is reviewed in detail that the full extent of the day to day discussion and consultation and also action, which is constantly required, is appreciated. Essential as the district organization of the tea industry has always been, it has never proved more valuable than during the war years when every conceivable type of problem had to be dealt with on the spot. Without that organization ; and, without the willing assistance given throughout by your Association, our capa-

city for dealing with these problems would have been seriously effected—if indeed, we could have tackled them at all. It is therefore with very great sincerity that I express to you our sense of gratitude for the efforts which you have all made on behalf of the industry.

The contribution which has been made by you throughout the war has been unequalled by any other community anywhere and this meeting which occurs at a time when the last steps are being taken to wind up the various organizations through which the industry played its part is an appropriate time for me to express to you on behalf of the tea industry in North-East India our congratulations for a long and arduous and highly complicated task well done. The projects work of the industry during the last three years has been an enterprise of national importance.

We are deeply conscious too that the very success of our activities on the project was causing fresh difficulties and problems for the planters left behind. Shortage of labour, shortage of clerical and medical staff, shortage of European assistants was the common lot of all. Add to that the innumerable problems caused by the difficulties of procuring foodstuffs, the ever present shortage of stores, manures and fuel, and there is a picture of incessant difficulty. To all those who carried the additional burdens of war years with such a conspicuous zeal and success we desire to express our appreciation.

It is natural, after a long period of intense strain such as the industry in this Province and elsewhere has been subjected to, that we should all look forward to some relaxation and some lightening of the war-time problems which have so deeply engaged us during the war. I am afraid, however, that we must look forward to a continuance for some considerable time of many of the economic difficulties which began during the war years and that even more testing problems are on the horizon. A political and economic upheaval such as the war which has now concluded has consequences which penetrate down to the most remote parts of the country and from which an industry such as this cannot be immune. In particular, it is obvious that the termination of the war sees a revival of labour activity and organization in every industrialised country. Labour the world over is in a state of ferment.

Industrial relations in the manufacturing centres of India have been difficult throughout the greater part of the war and there is no doubt in my mind that the repercussions of that and other labour movements in other countries must eventually make themselves felt in the tea districts. We have already had some experience of this during the war in a good many proposals for labour legislation which, while they affected the tea industry to a very small extent had the common objection that they were based on a slavish copy of conditions in other countries. Legislation which is now contemplated and which may be before the Assembly in the near future, dealing with such controversial subjects as the recognition of trade unions and the establishment of minimum wages, is open to the same objections and will create many additional difficulties. We must, I fear, be prepared to face a situation in which an increasing field of our relations with the labour will be determined by conditions established by the Legislature. It must be our object through our highly efficient political representatives to ensure that as far as possible the enthusiasm of our legislators is tempered by an appreciation of the fact that though the ultimate ideals behind labour laws may be the same in India as in the West, progress can be made only by constantly bearing in mind difference in conditions which must affect the means adopted to attain them. Granted success in this we need not fear the new situation. What it will require undoubtedly, however, is greater resources in the form of specialised advice and assistance to the individual manager, for many of the problems which will arise will have new and novel aspects and it will be essential that the policy to be followed in dealing with them is one accepted and supported by the industry. We are taking steps to deal with this new aspect of our affairs and, as you may already be aware, the first will be the contemplated appointment of a Labour Officer who will be available for consultation and advice on such matters particularly regarding the formation and recognition of labour unions.

We are also very conscious of the burdens which the secretarial work of this Association throws upon men whose normal work is planning and who can be made available for this in present conditions man-power shortage, with considerable difficulty. We gratefully recognise how great has been their contribution throughout the war but, as has

been indicated, we agree that the time has come when a permanent secretary is required. This is under consideration at present and we hope that before long a suitable man will be appointed.

This Province was in closer contact with the war than any other province in India and the fact that it did not experience disaster was largely due to the extent to which the mechanism of control was assisted by the co-operation in personnel and in other directions of the tea industry. It is clear that events here and in other parts of India will make it essential to retain many of the features of war time controls, particularly on the movement and prices of foodstuffs and cloth, but we may at any rate look forward to a gradual relaxation in their stringency and what we trust will be a steady return to normality. Our recent difficulties, however, in obtaining blankets and the information which is now becoming available about the food situation in some other parts of India indicate how far we have to travel before that stage is reached. So far as foodstuffs are concerned it is clear that, for the present we must maintain the existing system of supply to the labour at concession rates.

As a result of negotiations with the Coal Commissioner, we have arranged for a quota of 90,000 tons of coal to meet the requirements of gardens in Bengal, the Surma Valley and for a few gardens in Assam, west of Urdulguri for season 1946. This quantity is based on submitted returns, with allowance for the quantity of firewood which can be obtained. This will meet our needs provided it is of reasonable quality but, as in the case of all other consumers we have serious complaints to make about the quality of coal which has been and is at present being received. We have done everything in our power to bring about some improvement in this but it may be a considerable time before this is effected. Supplies will be spread in monthly quotas throughout the season and it will, in these circumstances, be impossible to meet gardens full demands in the first few months of the year.

As regards the market for tea, it now appears certain that the Block Purchase Scheme will be maintained, though it seems likely that there will be modifications in detail arising out of the cessation of hostilities. We have no information yet about the amount that will be

involved but it seems likely that it may well reach a higher figure than during 1945. As you are aware an additional 15 million lbs of tea has been called for by the Tea Controller in respect of the 1945 contract and an additional export quota, to the extent of 24 million lbs is being released. This will make the Indian export figure for 1945-46 104% of the standard export with a total allotment of 398,572,633 lbs. Our present information is, however, that acceptances under a supplementary contract will amount to only 2.5 million lbs. As regards 1946, we are now carrying out the investigation necessary in order to submit the claim for increased cost of production and it appears likely that this will be at a lower figure this year than last, a slight fall being a general feature of the returns from almost all districts.

It will thus be seen that, to all intents and purposes, the wartime machinery of tea control continues in being, and indeed, it is difficult to see how any fundamental change can take place in this until the supply position is altered by return of the Netherland's production. No accurate information on this is yet available but we hear that there has been some uprooting of tea plantations and considerable destruction or removal of factories and tea machinery. How long it will be before the industry is in position to produce its normal amount is, therefore, a matter of conjecture. We trust that it will not be long delayed for there is no doubt that, unsatisfactory though a situation of world oversupply is, even more dangerous and might have long-term effects in the loss of markets which it will take years to build up.

Like every other industry, our immediate future is beset by uncertainties and difficulties. As I said before, there is no prospect of much relaxation after the strenuous efforts of the war years. On the other hand, I have every confidence in the future of our industry and the part which it has to play in the organization of this country. Its advantages, as an employer of labour and as a producer of substantial wealth in world and domestic trade are apparent. The future of this province and of the tea industry are inseparably bound up and I have no fear but that, given tolerance and understanding on all sides, they will march steadily forward in the future.

Mr. D. C. Murray, I. C. S., Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, then addressed the meeting as follows :—

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me to attend your Annual Meeting today.

I listened with much pleasure and liveliest interest to your lucid and illuminating discourse. I expected more slings and arrows directed against Government and its servants than there were in your address. There were only two points which I would like to take up — those of cloth and elephants. I know that there has been a shortage of 'saris' and 'dhuris', but it has been a provincial shortage which in recent months has been to some extent righted by Government arranging for a very much greater percentage of cloth to be 'saris' and 'dhuris' instead of other less desirable kinds of cloth. I assure you that cloth received in this district by me has been, is being and will be distributed fairly to all sections of the community on a population basis.

The damage and disturbance caused by wild elephants is very great. I believe that it is not herds of wild elephants containing females and young animals and which can generally be scared away from crops and houses by unarmed villagers, but solitary male elephants, which are not frightened easily, which do the greatest damage. Rogue elephants which are not easily driven off by an adequately armed population of villagers or tea garden labourers are a diabolical thing. It is these rogue elephants which are responsible for the great losses of paddy and the steady if mercifully low toll of human life which occurs annually in this and other districts of Assam. I am trying to persuade Govt. to relax regulations which only date from 1912 that the only reward for shooting a rogue elephant shall be a hundred and fifty rupees. The earlier and better arrangement which still pertains in Bengal, was to permit the destroyer of a rogue elephant, if it were a tusker, to keep the tusks. This is some inducement to Shikaris to undertake the expensive, slow, and dangerous task of killing rogue elephants.

You said nothing in your address Mr. President by way of forecast of the state of the industry in the coming season. I will therefore

say that I wish you prosperity and a speedy easing of the arduous conditions in which you have had to work for so many years.

In every tea district in Assam in which I have served—Sylhet Sadar, Dibrugarh, Margherita, Golaghat, Tezpur and now Cachar I have always received officially the greatest and kindest co-operation and personally overwhelming hospitality from planting community. I have never previously had any opportunity of expressing in public to a gathering of planters my thanks for this kindness and I am most grateful for this opportunity I now have to say to you that I greatly appreciate this official co-operation and private kindness. Thank you.

If I can help any of you officially or privately in any way I shall be only too pleased to do so. I have always had your co-operation and you may be sure you will always have mine.

Mr. K. C. Datta, A. C. S., Asstt. Labour Commissioner, Assam, then addressed the meeting in the following terms :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I thank you for your kind invitation to this meeting which has enabled me not only to address you but to contact the members personally. We are grateful to Providence for the discovery of the mighty power behind the atom which brought the war to a victorious termination for the allies and relief to all concerned. We hope and trust abiding peace will soon be restored and the future world that would emerge out will be a happier and better place to live in.

Labour and Post war Development :—Gentlemen, you have heard of Post War Reconstruction in Communication, Education, Public Health and other departments of this province. These are happy auguries of a brighter future for our people. You are also aware that there are more than 1200 Tea gardens in this province comprising a labour

population of more than 12 lakhs. Add to this the population in other industries viz. Colliery, Oilfield, Railways, landless labourers, rural artisans and craftsmen and a host of ex-tea garden labour settled in this province. If I may hazard a guess their number will not be less than 5/6 lakhs. Thus nearly a fifth of the population of Assam is labour for whom no particular post-war development has been visualised. I am not unmindful of the fact that in the general economic and social uplift of the province labour is likely to receive some attention, but what I want to emphasise is that labour has its own problems which require to be handled with particular care.

Problems of Labour :—The main problems of labour are poverty, ignorance and disease which move in a vicious circle in the community. A tea garden labourer earns a low wage compared to what the labourers earn in other industries. The following comparative wage statistics will show that.

Industries,	Wages of unskilled labour.	Dearness & other allowance.	Food and other concessions.	Total.
1. Tea	Rs. 11/12/- per month (for the province)	Nil.	Rs. 6/1/6 per month.	Rs. 17/14/2
2. Oil	Rs. 22/12/- per mth.	Rs. 16/8/- per mth.	Rs. 12/- per month. Emergency allowance Rs. 2/4/6.	Rs. 56/- 8/5
3. Coal	Rs. 21/12/- per mth.	Rs. 13/2/- per mth.	Rs. 7/10/- per month, Absent dependant Assistance Rs. 3/-.	Rs. 43/15/9
4. Cement	Rs. 19/8/- per mth.	Rs. 6/3/- " "	Rs. 16/4/- per month.	Rs. 42/- 4/-
5. Match Factory	" 20/10/- "	Rs. 6/8/- " "	Rs. 4/3/- " "	Rs. 31/- 5/-
6. Timber works	" 14/10/- "	Rs. 13/2/- " "	Rs. 7/10/- " " Emergency allowance Rs. 2/1/9.	Rs. 37/- 7/9

It was indeed a wise step of your Association, to have foreseen the food shortage occasioned by the war nearer home and to have provided for supply of foodstuff at pegged prices. Another generous step has been to feed the children from the Hospital Kitchen one or two meals as their health condition demands. But for these measures, I am afraid, sickness and mortality would have been appalling. I have recently visited at number of gardens in upper Assam, North Bank and the Surma Valley. I am inclined to think from the figures in my possession that despite these attempts to maintain the health of the labour force, sickness and mortality has been highest in 1945. I made a survey of malnutrition among tea garden labour in 1943/44. The picture was not good enough then but now it seems to be worse. It has been acknowledged that there has been deterioration due to lack of vitality and impaired resisting capacity brought on by vitamin deficiency due to war condition and economic strain. It was amazing to find that out of about 50 patients in an Upper Assam Hospital 30 were victims of malnutrition. One redeeming feature—a silver lining to the cloud—is that adults are not so much affected as the pregnant women, nursing mother and children. Dr MacDonald, Director of the Ross Institute of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine recently told the Institute's Advisory Committee that there has been a serious deterioration of the general state of public health in India. Disease and malnutrition has become re-established on a large scale. It should be the duty of the management as well as of the Government to co-ordinate their activities with a view to raise the standard of health and ensure a better prospect for future.

It has often been said that a labourer would not take vegetables grown by him or poultry reared in his house or the milk of his own cow but would sell them in the bazar. Why does he not? Not surely because he has a distaste for these! He is driven by the necessity of perhaps buying a more essential commodity to sell these, he probably erroneously regards as luxury. In my report on Malnutrition I had shown that even if there has been a hundred per cent rise in the worker's earnings he is unable to correlate this income to a 300 p. c. rise in the cost of living. A mosquito net to prevent malaria, a couple of blankets for protection against cold, an umbrella in rains are a necessity for

every worker but we have seen that not many people have the means to buy them. Not that some people do not waste money in drink and other vices. We must wean them from these through education and propaganda.

The same may be said about their education. Schools in many gardens have disappeared as a Pundit could not be had for 15/- or 20/- p. m. owing to war condition. It is not known when this clouded future about the education in Tea Gardens will brighten up. The industry is already shouldering the burden of heavy losses on food and other concessions. To add to this on account of education may be resented. If, however, the Government think that it is up to them to help the cause of education in the Industries it is time that this should be taken up. I should think, however, that much could be done to educate the labour force in health, hygiene, agriculture and other branches of knowledge by film and lantern propaganda and lecture. We have seen good result of such propaganda by the Public Health Department and other institutions like the Social Service League of Sylhet. People who paid little heed to their own health and indulged in cholera song as a panacea during an epidemic of cholera and were still more indifferent to the health of their cattle, not only took inoculation themselves but were equally anxious about the welfare of their cattle. This change in the outlook of life of the villagers is the result of direct talk on the subject. In the Tea Garden it is generally found that the labourers would not use a latrine, close the windows to shut out free light and air and have little regard for health and hygiene. They do this out of ignorance. So they need to be taught that a latrine would keep them free from hookworm, a mosquito net would keep them free from malaria ; and these could not be better done than by direct teaching with the aid of film or lantern shows. I cannot too strongly recommend this for the consideration of your Association. The industry has no doubt provided houses, water supply, hospitals and other amenities for the labour force. When more is demanded it would pertinently ask what have the Government done for the villages ? It is no doubt true that amenities such as good water and medical facility are not so much available in the villages. But it has to borne in mind that the Tea Industry has direct responsibility to discharge for the labour force on whose resources it thrives. Let us

therefore hope that in the post-war planning both the Government and the Industry will combine to ensure a better standard of life and efficiency for labour.

Cost of Living Index Scheme for Plantation :— Gentlemen, we have just concluded Family Budget enquiries in three centres of Assam viz Silchar, Gauhati and Tinsukia with a view to find a suitable cost of living index for the province. There is a proposal for extending similar enquiries in the tea plantations. It has been held in some quarters that the present times are not propitious for an enquiry of this kind. What with the pegged prices of foodstuff in the gardens and the inflated prices of other goods, a correct data will be difficult to arrive at. Accordingly it may be thought wise to postpone the enquiry till normal conditions are restored. It will no doubt be a very useful enquiry particularly if conducted under normal conditions and I would ask your association's whole hearted co-operation in it.

Workmen's Compensation Payments :— You are aware, gentlemen, that the Commissioner of Labour as the 'Authorised Officer' makes payments of compensation to the dependants of those that died in the Defence Projects. These payments are mostly made through the Managers concerned in case of garden labour. We have now 1135 cases involving a total payment of 10,59,149/- Cases of delay were reported at the beginning, but we have now regularised payments. I am concerned about cases in which a claimant cannot be traced, probably the widow takes a new husband and leaves for unknown destination. The result is that the entire balance has to be refunded. In case where a party is inclined to buy land or cattle or otherwise invest the money profitably, the whole amount may be paid in lumpsum on the recommendation of the Manager.

Maternity Benefits Act :— You have probably seen the new amendment to the rules under this act. This will spare you from maintaining separate Register in form A, provided the attendance register for women would show the date on which she was first employed. This may be entered in a suitable column. The medical certificate prescribed under rule 6 will not be necessary if the Register in form B is countersigned by the Medical Officer against item 1 (a). I have seen many

gardens pay more liberal benefits than the Act provides. It is not in conformity with the Act to reduce such grants as some gardens have done. The Act prescribes a minimum and it would be gracious to continue the liberal allowance which has so long been enjoyed by the women.

I again thank you, gentlemen, for your kind invitation and assure you that what I have said I have spoken as a friendly critic who has the welfare of the industry as well as that of labour at heart.

Mr H. P. Morby, Joint Agent, Steamer Cos., Fenchuganj, then spoke as follows :—

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I thank you for accordan~~g~~ing me the opportunity of addressing you briefly and I assure you, gentlemen, it will be very briefly, on subjects relating to the Joint Steamer Co's sphere of activities.

I have been made fully aware that the subject of demurrage is a bone of contention with most Garden Managers. In this respect I trust it will be appreciated that the tightening up of the Joint Steamer Co's demurrage rules during the War, was dictated solely by the needs of the Military Authorities and Government as regards the provision of blocks and that the quickest possible turn round of all our vessels was essential to the successful prosecution of the War. It does not require any great deduction to realise that had demurrage rules been relaxed at that time—the Tea Industry would have suffered far greater inconvenience in the long run. The question of relaxing these rules however, is already under active consideration and it is the Joint Co's intention to modify, to a reasonable extent, the free storage period at our different stations. The local conditions prevailing will be taken into account. An announcement covering our proposals will be made in due course.

It has been the Joint Steamer Co's policy to assist the Tea Industry wherever possible and with this end in view—and many of you are aware of it—it was proposed to start a Road Motor Transport Service to operate in the Chutla Bheel and Happy Valley areas. I would like

to state that the Joint Cos, applied to the Regional Transport Authority for public carriers licences for six 3-ton lorries to operate in these areas of the Surma Valley in bringing teas to Silchar and taking tea garden stores and Coal etc from Silchar to the gardens concerned. The licences were refused by the Regional Transport Authority on the grounds that there already were more than an adequate number of public carrier vehicles under regular permits in this region and that an increase in the present number of vehicles was unjustified.

In conclusion I am able to advise you, however, that the Joint Steamer Cos, are not content to let the matter rest at that and they are now considering ways and means of proceeding with their original proposals.

Mr. N. M. MacGregor, Senior Scientific Officer, Tocklai Experimental Station, addressed the meeting as follows :—

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I am privileged to take up a few minutes of your precious time and I do not wish to abuse that privilege.

I offer you no scientific discourse but I welcome this opportunity of letting you know what the position now is at Tocklai.

Mr. Carpenter retired in November and Mr. Harrison took over as Chief Scientific Officer.

At the moment only Mr. Harrison and I are on the station and one of us will be on tour most of the time.

Mr. Tunstall will be returning soon, while Dr. Roberts, Dr. Wight and Dr. Woodford are still in Government employ and due for immediate release. However all 3 are due for home leave.

Similarly Mr. Winter whom we are lucky to have with us today is still a Major in the Mahrattas and is due home leave, before returning to Tocklai.

I regret to say that Mr. Benton is leaving us at the end of the year.

As most of you are aware Mr. Comrie was killed in 1943 in Arakan which leaves us without an Entomologist. This is particularly unfortunate since the two most powerful weapons the war has left us are the two insecticides D. D. T. and 6. 6. 6. Both are powerful enough to be dangerous and need careful experiment which none of us at Tocklai are competent to carry out.

I must spend one minute of your time in issuing a warning for it is certain that many of you will be asked to experiment with these insecticides by your Agency Houses. Do not forget that although they may kill your enemies the Red Spider and the Tea Mosquito they may also kill your friends the parasites which live on these two pests. Do not use these powerful insecticides all over the garden as a general spray, or you may find the red spider disappears only to be followed by an unprecedented attack of some such pest as mosquito.

As regards the programme of work at Tocklai so far as the agricultural side goes we are in agreement with many of the Calcutta Agency Houses in believing that the time has come when we can no longer hope to make a financial success of areas yielding 7 mds per acre or less. A target of 15 to 18 mds. per acre should be aimed at, and areas which it is believed can never reach this figure will have to go by the board. At the moment anything pays but when restriction comes off as it very likely will in 1948 and we are no longer spoon fed by the consumers, something far nearer mass production in growing, harvesting and the manufacture of tea will become necessary.

With this belief in view we shall push up the yield for all sections under experiment at Tocklai (excluding long term manuring experiments) 18 mds. per acre so that the problems accompanying the plucking, pruning and cultivation of high yielding tea may be examined, for all three depend to a large extent on the crop.

Lastly Mr. Winter will be issuing a questionnaire which can be answered without reference to your records in 5 minutes or less, and I

hope you will complete it in due course and post it back to us. Your replies will be invaluable to Mr. Winter when time comes for him to get down to work again in this Valley.

Gentlemen, I want to thank you for your kind attention and for the hospitality shown both to Mr. Winter and to myself in this Valley.

Mr. Butterfield, District Traffic Superintendent, B. A. Ry., Badarpur, then addressed the meeting in the following terms :—

Mr. Chairman Gentlemen,

I have to thank you for inviting me to this your Annual General Meeting and also for the opportunity of replying to the various issues concerning the Railway which have been raised by Mr. Chairman in his speech.

The points with which I am concerned are :—

Pilferage of mustard oil and the refusal of the B. A. Railway to entertain any claim for such loss on the ground that a Risk Note has been executed by the consignor.

The disappearance of luggage of passengers this side of the river.

The condition of coaching stock and lack of provision of lighting in the carriages.

The demand for running of the Surma Mail via Chandpur and not Jagannathganj.

The enticement of Tea Garden Labour by the Railway.

With regard to the alleged refusal of the Railway authorities to entertain claims on pilfered consignments of mustard oil although pilferage has been proved no such case has come to my notice but if the Chairman will give me particulars I shall be in a position to give him a reply.

The Railway is not unaware of the fact that pilferage is taking place and the Administration is taking steps to check this evil. We have recently posted a number of extra watch and ward staff and supervisory staff to the Dacca-Narayanganj section where train running thefts have occurred and we hope that this extra staff will produce the desired results.

Owing to the heavy demands which have been made on the coaching stock of this Railway, regular repairs and overhaul could not be effected. All such stock has been subjected to terrific wear and it is not therefore surprising to find them in their present condition. However, a shopping programme has already been drawn up and rehabilitation of stock is in hand. You will have observed that we have already replaced one of the Surma Mail rakes with new stock, and you will also have noticed that we are collecting new coaches at Silchar as they come out of shops to replace the second Surma Mail Rake.

The restoration of train lighting has presented the Railway with a difficult problem. Attempts have been made in the past but lamps were being stolen at an alarming rate. Our average peace time consumption of lamps was 1000 per annum per 1000 lamps fitted. At one stage replacement of lamps which were stolen rose to 12000 lamps per annum per 1000 fitted. The Railway was, therefore, forced to discontinue experiments until anti-theft fittings had been installed in carriages. The provision of this fittings is in hand and every endeavour is being made by the Railway to restore train lighting in all passenger trains as soon as possible. As you must all know 6 Up and 10 Dn. Surma Mails have been provided with lighting in all carriages.

I feel from what has been said that members of the Association are not aware of the fact that a through carriage runs daily between Silchar and Chandpur. This carriage is an FNT, having 8 upper class seats, and leaves Silchar by 10 Dn. Surma Mail at 16.50 hours, has connections with 502 Dn. at AKA and 516 Dn. at LKM, and arrives Chandpur at 04.00 hours, the following morning. Connection is maintained with the Steamer service at Chandpur. The Jagannathganj route is quicker route for passengers from Silchar to Calcutta as the Surma Mail arrives Calcutta at 17.45 hrs. whereas the Chittagong Express

reaches Calcutta at 21 30 hrs i. e. 3/4 hrs. later. The present timings via the Chandpur route are almost the same as those prevailing in the past. I will arrange to send the Secretary details of the Chandpur through carriage connections.

Lastly I come to the allegation that the Railway is enticing labour from the Tea Gardens. I know of one case of such alleged enticement, and it relates to some labour at Ditokchera. From the reply of the Executive Engineer, Haslong, to the Manager, British India Tea Co. Ltd, Urrunaband, a copy of the letter is with me, the trouble lay not with the Railway, but with the Railway contractor who was providing labour at Ditokcherra. The contractor who did not know that this labour belonged to the Tea Garden in the first instance, was quite willing to return them provided he received what he had paid for them, and the expenses incurred on them. The Railway at no time offered any objections to the return of this labour nor raised any obstacles in the way of any settlement. If this is the case referred to, then it is unfair to blame the Railway for something they had no hand in."

Mr H. F. Clark, C. I. E. drew the serious attention of the Branch to the recent announcement of the Viceroy envisaging an acute food shortage throughout India. He also referred to the possibility of Rationing being introduced in tea gardens, and this he considered would add to the already existing problem of malnutrition amongst tea garden population. The Tea Industry had to feed 1½ million labour. With land resources at their disposal, it was a matter of great pity that the Industry should be faced with the food crisis. He appealed to all to make every effort to cope with the situation by developing areas for food crop cultivation. With the permission of the Chairman he moved the following resolution which was carried unanimously :—

"This meeting of the Surma Valley Branch India Tea Association, requests the Calcutta Committee to arrange a conference with representatives of the Branches to examine the question of food suppli-

es to garden labour forces, in particular the arranging of food production by estates themselves and to recommend a policy for meeting any acute food shortage that may arise."

At the request of the Chairman Mr. G. C. K. Merry, then moved the following resolution : -

" I beg to move that the accounts of the Branch be passed and that the Proceedings of the General Committee for last year be confirmed."

The being seconded by Mr. N. Mackenzie, was carried unanimously.

The following resolution was then moved by Mr. K. O. Smith,

" I beg to move that the rate of subscription for 1946 be four annas per acre."

This resolution being seconded by Mr. D. R. Livingstone was carried unanimously.

.....

With a vote of thanks to the Chair the meeting closed.

J. R. WILSON,
Secretary.

A. F. BENDALL,
Chairman.

Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch.

Rules Governing the Hire of the Motor Ambulance.

1. The Ambulance will on the requisition of the Medical Officer be available for the use of the Indian and European Staffs of gardens within the membership of the Surma Valley Branch Indian Tea Association and also for the families and dependants of such staffs.
2. Accommodation in the Ambulance is strictly limited to the patient and two attendants.
3. The revised charges for use of the Ambulance now stationed at Silchar would be Rs. 100/- per trip "all in" i. e. collecting the patient up to Shillong and return to Silchar, unless the return mileage were less than 200 miles, for delivery of patients to Hospitals nearer than Shillong, when the charge would be 1/- per mile. A charge of Rs. 10/- per night will be made for the second and succeeding nights out. Under no circumstances, however, may the Ambulance be detained in Shillong for longer than two nights.

Procedure to be adopted to obtain the use of the Ambulance.

1. The use of the Ambulance may be requisitioned only by the Medical Officers of gardens within the membership of the Association, or by the Civil Surgeons of Cachar and Sylhet.
2. Medical Officers requisitioning the use of the Ambulance for a patient, will be required to send Express Reply-paid telegrams to—"TEA" Silchar.

The telegram should state—

- (a) for whom the Ambulance is required.
- (b) where the patient is to be met.
- (c) if the patient is travelling by train the time of the train's arrival at destination and
- (d) the name of the Medical Officer.

3. Although the present arrangements provide for the services of a competent driver to be available at short notice, Medical Officers are requested whenever possible, to give 12 hours' notice of their instructions.

The Brahmaputra and Surma Valley Local Recruitment Agreement.

Memorandum of procedure in cases of Labour Disputes between members of the Indian Tea Association, as recommended by the Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association and the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.

1. Any Manager who feels himself aggrieved by a case of alleged wilful enticement or recruitment by another Manager, may submit a full report of the case to the Chairman of the District/Circle Committee in which he himself resides.
2. The Chairman of such Committee shall be empowered to call for an explanation in writing from the alleged offender (second party) if resident in the same district as the complainant (first party) or he shall pass on the complaint to the Chairman of the District/Circle Committee in which the second party resides.
3. The Chairman of the District/Circle Committee in which the second party resides on receipt of a complaint shall convene a meeting of his District/Circle Committee within 7 days to consider the case.

The Chairman and 3 Members shall form a quorum and both parties to the case shall be invited and given every reasonable facility to attend.

4. Should the second party's explanation be considered unsatisfactory by a majority of members present, a brief report of the Proceedings together with all correspondence shall be forwarded to the Branch Secretary who shall send copies to the Chairman of the Branch and the Secretary, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, for the attention of the Proprietary Interests involved.
5. Should parties to a dispute not be resident in the same Valley that is if one party be resident in the Assam Valley and the other party resident in the Surma Valley the complaint shall be addressed direct to the Secretary of the Branch in which the complainant (first party) resides. The Secretary shall on receipt forward same to the Chairman of the District/Circle Committee in which the alleged offender (second party) resides, to convene a meeting at which Rules 3 and 4 will apply.
6. In the case of a District/Circle Committee Chairman being either the complainant or defendant, the case shall be dealt with by the Vice-Chairman of the District/Circle Committee.

Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch.

RULES.

(As from 31st March, 1943.)

1. The Branch Association shall be called the "Surma Valley Branch of the Indian Tea Association."
2. The objects of the Branch are generally to watch over and, as far as possible, to protect the interests of the Tea Industry of the Surma Valley, also to keep in touch with Government, the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta and other Associations on matters connected with the Indian Tea Industry.
3. The Branch shall consist of Companies, Proprietors or Concerns occupied in the production of tea in the Surma Valley. Companies proprietors or Concerns wishing to join need not necessarily be members of the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta.
 - (a) All members of the Branch shall undertake to abide by the rules of the Branch.
4. The funds of the Branch shall be provided by an annual subscription based upon the area under the tea cultivation. The rate to be fixed by the General Committee subject to confirmation at the Annual General Meeting.
 - (a) It shall be within the power of the General Committee of the Branch to expel any Company Proprietor or Concern from membership of the Branch, if it allows its annual subscription to become more than one year in arrears, or if it consistently fails to comply with the general principles of action in matters concerning the welfare of the employees of member estates, or in matters concerning the interests of the industry in general as

decided upon by the General Committee of the Branch. For the purpose of this Rule, it shall be within the power of any Circle Committee to recommend to the General Committee that any concern should be expelled from membership of the Branch, but such a recommendation must be supported by the votes of at least two-thirds of the members of the Circle Committee present voting at the Circle Committee Meeting at which such recommendation is considered.

(b) Should a member resign or default and afterwards wish to rejoin the said member shall be obliged to pay a sum equivalent to the value of the subscription that would have accrued to the Branch during the period of non-membership. No such member, however, being liable for a sum exceeding the value of two years' subscription.

5. (a) The Surma Valley shall be divided into the following twelve Circles :—

Luskerpore, Manu-Doloi, Chargola, North Sylhet, Balisera, Mid-Sylhet, Longai, Hailakandi, Lakhipur, Chutla Bheel, Happy Valley, North Cachar

(b) In each of the above-named Circles a Committee to be termed Circle Committee shall be formed.

(c) Each proprietor, Company or Concern within the membership of the Branch shall be entitled to one representative either Superintendent or Manager on the Circle Committee within whose area the concern is situated.

For the purpose of this rule a concern is considered to mean a garden having a factory, or a garden the Manager of which deals direct with the Managing Agents or Board of Directors.

(d) The members of each Circle Committee shall elect annually by ballot from among their number an Honorary Chairman, Honorary Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary. The election shall take place as soon as possible after 1st March but not later than the end of that month. The offices of Honorary Chairman

and Honorary Secretary or Honorary Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary may be held by one and the same person.

- (e) Each Circle Committee shall elect annually an Emergency Committee for dealing with matters of urgency. This Committee shall consist of not more than five members including the Chairman of the Circle Committee who shall also be the Chairman of the Emergency Committee.
- (f) Circle Committees shall meet at least once during each quarter preferably a fortnight previous to each of the quarterly General Committee meetings.
- (g) Any member of a Circle Committee unavoidably absent from a meeting may give his proxy to any other member of the same Circle Committee.
- (h) At a Circle Committee meeting the attendance of not less than 25% of the members in person shall be required to form a quorum.
- (i) When any matter of interest or importance is brought to the notice of the Honorary Chairman of a Circle Committee, he shall instruct the Honorary Secretary to call a meeting, of which 14 days' notice shall ordinarily be given (except in a case of urgency when 7 days shall suffice); a report of the proceedings of such meetings shall be sent to the Branch Secretary. Circle Committee shall take action through the Branch Secretary who shall have the matter in question brought before the Chairman of the Branch for orders.
- (j) Circle Committee may discuss and pass a resolution on, or make suggestion in connection with any subject affecting local planting interest either directly or otherwise. The Circle Committee may, thereupon require their representative on the General Committee to bring the matter before that Committee for necessary action.
- (k) Each member of a Circle Committee shall be entitled to one vote for every complete 100 acres of tea which he represents

and on which the annual subscription to the Branch had been paid. The Chairman, in the case of equal voting, shall have a casting vote.

- (i) Circle Committee members shall, when a meeting is impracticable state their views in writing to the Honorary Secretary who in conjunction with his Chairman, shall draw up resolution in accordance with the opinion expressed by the majority and forward same to the Branch Secretary for necessary action or consideration by the General Committee.
- 6. (a) For the conduct of the business of the Branch, each of the twelve Circle Committees shall elect annually by ballot a representative on the General Committee of the Surma Valley Branch. The election of the General Committee members shall take place as soon as possible after 1st March but not later than the end of that month.
The General Committee shall at their first meeting elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman by ballot. The Chairman need not necessarily be a member of the General Committee, but in the case of a member of the General Committee being elected to the Chairmanship his place on the Committee shall be filled by the election of another representative of the Circle Committee concerned
- (b) In all matters of whatsoever nature that come up before the General Committee, each member shall have one vote only.
- (c) The Chairman in the case of equal voting shall have a casting vote. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman or the Deputy Chairman shall in the case of equal voting have a casting vote in addition to his vote as a member of the General Committee.
- (d) Should a representative on the General Committee be unable to attend any General Committee meeting the Chairman of the Circle Committee concerned shall have the power to appoint the Vice-Chairman or any other member of his Committee to act as the Circle representative.

- (e) The meeting of the General Committee shall take place once during each quarter subject to 21 days' notice, but the Chairman or his deputy shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Committee to consider any matter of urgency or importance and shall give not less than seven days' notice of such meeting.
- (f) The meeting of the General Committee shall ordinarily be held at Silchar except that it shall be optional for the Sylhet members to claim that each alternate meeting be held at some convenient place in Sylhet to be decided upon by them : but notice of such intention must be given to the Branch Secretary at least one month previous to the date of the meeting which they propose should be held in Sylhet.
- (g) Any member unable to attend a meeting of the General Committee may, in case where there is no time to appoint a deputy as provided for in Rule 6 (d), give his proxy to another member of the General Committee to act for him.
- (h) Any member of the General Committee who is not present in person, or by proxy at any three consecutive meetings of that Committee, creates a vacancy, and the Branch Secretary shall request his Circle Committee to nominate another representative.
- (i) In the event of a Chairman of either the General or Circle Committee wishing to resign during the term of his office, he shall call a meeting to appoint a substitute giving, if possible, 21 days' but not less than 7 days' notice of such meeting, and shall continue until such appointment is made.
- (j) Seven members present in person or five in person and two by proxy shall form a quorum at any meeting of the General Committee.
- (k) The General Committee shall appoint and control the Branch Secretary whose office shall be an annual one.
- (l) The General Committee shall appoint annually Emergency

Committees of four members in Sylhet and Cachar. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Branch shall be members of one or other of the Emergency Committees.

7. (a) The Branch Secretary shall ordinarily keep a register of all proceedings, carry on the clerical work of the Branch and shall collect the subscriptions due to the Branch. He shall draw up and submit accounts to the General Committee in each half year as soon as possible, after 1st July and 1st January.

A copy of the accounts shall be sent to all members 21 days before the meeting at which they would come before the General Committee for discussion and sanction ; copies of the accounts shall, thereafter be circulated to all members.

- (b) The Branch Secretary shall also circulate to all members a copy of communications issued under the authority of the General Committee, also a copy of the proceedings of all General Committee meeting.
- (c) The Branch Secretary shall furnish the Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, with a copy of all communications emanating from, and proceedings of the General Committee.
8. The Branch Secretary on receiving particulars concerning matters of public interest which require the attention of the Branch shall (should the Chairman consider a meeting inexpedient) circulate copies of the particulars to all members of the General Committee who shall furnish the Branch Secretary within a fortnight with their written opinions, so that in conjunction with the Chairman of the Branch, the Secretary may decide by the general opinion what action should be taken.
 - (a) All circulars which call for a reply and all returns sent to members through the Branch Office or from Circle Chairman shall be answered promptly.
9. Upon receiving a requisition signed by ten ordinary members of the Branch stating the reason therefor, the Branch Secretary shall convene an ordinary General Meeting of the members of

the Branch at Silchar, on giving 21 days' notice of such meeting and stating for what reason and on whose requisition it has been called.

10. The General Committee of the Branch may, at a meeting provided 75% of all members of the Committee are agreeable, add to or delete from, alter or frame any new rule as may be considered necessary.

Panel of Assessors

Appointed by the Circle Committees for the year 1946-47 for
Inspection of Gardens on behalf of the Indian
Tea Licensing Committee.

NAMES OF ASSESSORS.

ADDRESSES.

Chutla Bheel.

Mr. W. McIver (Responsible member).
All members of the Circle Committee.

Rukni T. E., Palonghat,
P. O. Cachar.

Hailakandi.

Mr. N. Mackenzie (Responsible member)
All members of the Circle Committee.

Roopacherra T. E.,
Vernerpur P. O., Cachar.

Happy Valley.

Mr. T. R. Watson (Responsible member)
All managers in the Circle.

Cossipur T. E.,
Silchar P. O., Cachar.

Lakhipur.

Mr. H. G. Webb (Responsible member)
All Circle Managers.

Lakhipur T. E.,
Lakhipur P. O., Cachar.

NAMES OF ASSESSORS.

ADDRESSES.

North Cachar.

Mr. J. S. R. Telfer (Responsible member) Rampore T. E.,
All Managers in the Circle. Dalu P. O., Cachar.

Chargola.

Mr. A. C. Kitchen (Responsible member) Chargola T. E.,
All Managers in the Circle. Ratabari P. O., Sylhet.

Longai Circle.

Mr. D. R. Livingstone (Responsible member) Hattikhira T. E.,
Messrs. A. T. Davies, A. Cleland, Chandkira P. O., Sylhet.
G. R. Hughes, G. Kydd, Neilson,
Milnie and Taylor.

Mid-Sylhet.

Mr. W. D. Rutherford (Responsible member) Dhamai T. E.,
Messrs. J. Sharp, W. R. Hewitson, Juri P. O., Sylhet.
Lees and Paterson.

North Sylhet.

Mr. H. Patterson (Responsible member) Malnicherra T. E.,
Messrs. R. Hall, S. Pycock, J. R. Storrie, Sylhet P. O., Sylhet,
and Rai Sahib Gongadhar Tusnia.

Manu-Doloi.

Mr. V. Knott (Responsible member) Kurmah T. E.,
Messrs. R. Godwin Smith and Patrakhola P. O., Sylhet.
R. Sen Gupta.

Luskerpur.

Mr. J. M. McB'Laing (Responsible member) Chandpore T. E.,
Messrs. C. H. Robin, J. H. Walker, Chandpurbagan P. O.,
W. T. Charlson. Sylhet.

NAMES OF ASSESSORS.

ADDRESSES.

Balisera.

Mr. R. Leask (Responsible member)	Balisera T. E.,
Messrs. A. K. Preston,	Kalighat P. O., Sylhet.
R. Spashett and Sen.	

Payment of Fees to Assessors.

It has now been decided by the Licensing Committee that fees will be paid by them in respect of assessments carried out by District Advisory Officers on the following scale :—

- (a) in cases of inspections with claims for the re-determination of crop basis a fee of Rs. 32/- per 100 planted acres or part thereof *calculated on the total tea area of the garden* will be paid to be divided equally between the inspectors, plus their actual out-of-pocket travelling expenses ;
- (b) in all other cases a fee of Rs. 32/- per 100 planted acres or part thereof *of the tea actually inspected* will be paid to be equally divided between the inspectors plus their actual out-of-pocket travelling expenses.

Hail Insurance Assessment Fees.

The revised scale of Hail Insurance Assessment Fees as laid down in the proceedings of a meeting of the General Committee, Indian Tea Association, Calcutta, held on the 3rd March, 1926, viz :—

Area damaged by Hail.	Rupees.
Up to 200 acres	... 48 (minimum fee)
Exceed 200 and not over 300 acres	... 72 "
" 300 " " 400 "	... 96 "
" 400 " " 500 "	... 120 "
For each additional 100 acres surveyed beyond 500 "	... 16 "

Controlled Vehicles.**Hire Charges (Revised.)***(To be in force from 15th March, 1945.)*

The sub-Committee, appointed by the General Committee of the Branch, duly recommended that the following will be an equitable arrangement when a lorry is used by any other garden under the Transport Pool Scheme :—

- (1) Hire charge of Rs. 30/- per day, or part day. One full day being approximately 8 hours, including time taken to and from parent garden and sufficient time off for rest. For each additional hour, overtime, or part thereof, a charge of Rs 3/- will be made.
- (2) Total petrol consumed to be paid for by garden hiring.
- (3) Casual Labour for loading and unloading to be supplied by garden hiring.
- (4) All Ghat fees or tolls, including those incurred while vehicle is proceeding to or from parent garden, to be paid by garden hiring.

In arriving at the figure of Rs. 30/- per day as Hire charge the Sub-Committee included in their calculations :—

- (1) Total depreciation of vehicle.
- (2) Depreciation of tyres.
- (3) Driver's wages.
- (4) Handyman's wages.
- (5) Public Conveyor's Licence.
- (6) Licence Fees.
- (7) Insurance of vehicles, including third party risks.
- (8) Engine Oil

(9) Maintenance, upkeep, and repairs.

From the above it will be noted that insurance of goods carried has not been included. This, it was considered, would be the responsibility of the garden hiring who should make suitable arrangements to cover this liability. It will not be the responsibility of the owner garden to supply tarpaulins.

In the event of trucks being operated under Circle arrangements, for the collection of I. T. A. foodstuffs from Steamer Ghats, the Circle Transport Officer, it was recommended would be deemed the hirer.

The C. T. O. would then bill all gardens participating, including the owner garden if concerned, for their proportion of the total manning of foodstuffs carried during the day against total costs incurred. Total costs would be as for individual garden :

- (1) Daily hire charge of Rs. 30/- per truck.
- (2) Cost of Petrol consumed.
- (3) Cost of casual labour employed for loading & unloading.
- (4) All Ghat and/or toll fees

Should, however, the owner garden desire to utilize the unused space or unused carrying capacity of the truck on either the outward or inward journey the owner garden will pay one-third of the hire charge, i. e. Rs. 10/- only.

(a) The C. T. O. ONLY has the authority to allocate the Controlled lorries for all work of concerns other than that of the owner garden.

(b) Lorries MUST NOT be worked outside the Circle area without reference to the C. T. O.

The Committee wished to bring ~~to~~ the notice of all members that Controlled lorries must not be used for carrying passengers other than the loading and unloading labourers and handymen.

**List of Members of the General Committee
Elected for the year 1946-47.**

Mr. C. W. Morley, Esq., (*Chairman*).

<i>Longai</i>	Mr. D. R. Livingstone Esq., (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>).
<i>Chutla Bazaar</i>	Mr. W. McIver, Esq.
<i>Hailakandi</i>	Mr. N. Mackenzie, Esq.
<i>Happur Valley</i>	Mr. T. R. Watson Esq.
<i>Lakhimpur</i>	Mr. H. G. Webb, Esq.
<i>North Cachar</i>	Mr. J. S. R. Telfer, Esq.
<i>Chargola</i>	Mr. A. C. Hitchen, Esq.
<i>Mid-Sylhet</i>	Mr. W. D. Rutherford Esq.
<i>Manu-Dolei</i>	Mr. V. Knott, Esq.
<i>Baitsera</i>	Mr. R. Leask, Esq.
<i>Luskerpore</i>	Mr. J. M. McBLaing, Esq.
<i>North Sylhet</i>	Mr. H. Patterson, Esq.

Representatives of the Surma Valley Branch on :—

Assam Legislative Council :

Mr. H. Emblen (representing the European Constituency).

Assam Legislative Assembly :

Dr. C. G. Terrell (Since resigned).
Mr. C. W. Morley.
Mr. W. D. Rutherford.
Mr. G. Kydd (Since resigned).
Mr. H. Patterson.

Committee of Management, Lady Minto Nursing Association :

Mr. C. W. Morley, M. L. A.

Indian Tea Market Expansion Board :

Mr. J. Forbes.
Mr. J. S. R. Telfer.

Indian Tea Licensing Committee :

Mr. J. D. Nimmo, Calcutta.

Bengal & Assam Railway Local Advisory Committee :

Mr. F. Woolley Smith,
Hoogly P. O., Assam.

Working Committee of the Nari-Shikshasram

Mr. J. S. R. Telfer.

Tea District Labour Association :

Mr. A. F. Bendall.
Mr. S. A. Pearson.

**Names and Addresses of the Circle Chairmen,
Elected for the year 1946-47.**

Name of Circle.	Name of Chairman.	Address.
Chutla Bheel.	Mr. W. McIver	Rukni T. E., Palonghat P. O., Cachar.
Hailakandi.	Mr. N. Mackenzie	Roopacherra T. E., Vernerpur P. O., Cachar.
Happy Valley.	Mr. T. R. Watson	Cossipore T. E., Silchar P. O., Cachar.
Lakhipur.	Mr. H. G. Webb	Tilkah T. E., Lakhipur P. O., Cachar.
North Cachar.	Mr. J. S. R. Telfer	Rampore T. E., Dalu P. O., Cachar.
Chargola.	Mr. A. C. Hitchen	Chargola T. E., Ratabari P. O., Sylhet.
Longai.	Mr. D. R. Livingstone	Hatikhira T. E., Chandkhira P. O., Sylhet.
Mid-Sylhet.	Mr. W. D. Rutherford	Dhamai T. E., Juri P. O., Sylhet.
Manu Dolo.	Mr. V. Knott	Kurmah T. E., Patrakhala P. O., Sylhet.
Balisera.	Mr. R. Leask	Balisera T. E., Kalighat P. O., Sylhet.
Luskerpore	Mr. J. M. McBlair	Chandpore T. E., Chanc pur Bagan P. O., Sylhet
North-Sylhet.	Mr. H. Patterson	Malnicherra T. E., Sylhet P. O., Sylhet.

Circle Emergency Committees.

Hailakandi.

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. Murray,
" Hossack,
" Dutta.

Chutla Bheel.

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. Armour,
" Rae,
" Gupta.

Lakhipur.

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. Fullerton,
" Dominy.

Happy Valley.

Mr. T. R. Watson,
" Stevensons,
" Ireland,
" Macgeagh,
" C. W. Morley.

North Cachar.

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. Jas. Watson,
" Watson,
" Rai Sahib N. C. Das.

Luskerpore.

Mr. J. M. McB'Laing.
„ G. Clayphan.
„ C. R. Adamson.
„ N. F. Bacon.
„ G. Gorbon.
„ W. J. Douglas.
„ C. H. Roblin.

Balisera.

Mr. Leask.
„ Preston.
„ Spashett.
„ Arthur.
„ Morrison.

Manu Doloi.

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. Sengupta.
„ McGown.
„ Gellatly.

Mid-Sylhet.

Mr. Rutherford.
„ Sharp.
„ Lees.
„ Hewitson.
„ Hayes.

Chargola

Chairman,
Vice-Chairman,
Mr. W. Cullen.
„ R. B. Thom.
„ A. Slene.
„ A. Young.

Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch.

Statement of Account for Year Ending 31st December, 1945.

RECEIPT.	Rs.	As.	P.	EXPENDITURE.	Rs.	As.	P.
To Balance brought forward from December, 1944.	...	9.137	0	By Secretary's salary & Allowance to Office staff " Dearness allowance to staff " House & Servant allowance to staff Provident fund to staff Chairman's P. A. T. A. to G. C. members T. A. to Office staff Circle Chairman's Office exp. Postage & Telegrams Printing & Stationery Ambalance Telephone & Electric charges Reg. of Tel. Address "T.H.A" Subscription paid Founder's Retainer Hire of furniture to I.M.N.A Books & Periodicals Bank Charges Advance Mise. Expenses Fire Insurance Premium	5.920	0	0
" Subscription collected :— Sylhet— 20,316.30 Cachar— 1,937.15.10	34,301	1	2	9	3.727	0	0
" Hire of Ambulance	526	15	1	0	348	0	0
" Interest received on deposit	116	0	0	0	270	0	0
" Levy on Foodstuffs	6246	1	0	0	276	0	0
					1,296	8	6
					4,271	0	0
					78	7	0
					2,236	9	9
					2,831	9	6
					2,724	6	6
					1,810	9	0
					452	5	0
					20	0	0
					100	0	0
					100	0	0
					75	0	0
					100	0	0
					100	0	0
					50	0	0
					262	8	0
					5	5	0
					200	0	0

(59 *)

Longai.

Mr. Livingstone,
" Cleland,
" Neilson,
" Davies,
" Hughes,
" Milne,
" Taylor,
" Kydd.

North-Sylhet.

All members of the Committee

**Circles of the Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association with
Names of Companies & Gardens in the Membership with
their Acreage & Agency Houses, for the year 1946.**

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Luskerpore		
Noyapara Tea Co, Ltd.	839	M/s. James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
Amo Tea Co, Ltd.		
Amo	881	
Naluwa	674	
Teliapara Tea Co. Ltd.	2720	" Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd.
Teliapara	768	
Satchurie	397	
Chundeecherra Tea Co. Ltd.	532	" Octavius Steel & Co. Ltd
Luskerpore Tea Co. Ltd.	823	" Shaw Wallace & Co.
Chandpore Tea Co Ltd.	1425	" Barry & Co.
Imperial Tea Co. Ltd.		
Surma	1119	
Rutema Tea Co. Ltd.	1774	" McLeod & Co.
Rema	655	
Deundi Tea Co. Ltd.		
Deundi	1351	" Planters Stores &
Lalchand	816 $\frac{1}{2}$	Agency.
Balisera		
Consolidated Tea & Land Co. Ltd.	10280 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Deanston	2402 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rajghat	2373 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Balisera	2126 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Amrail	1974	
Jagcherra	782 $\frac{1}{2}$	" James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
Baraoora (Sylhet) Tea Co., Ltd.	14109 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Baraoora	1465 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rasidpur	1733 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Daragaon	1215 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Mazdehee Tea Co. Ltd.	600	" Planters Stores & Agency.
Assam Consolidated Tea Estates Co., Ltd	603	" Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd.
Mirzapore	603	

Names of Companies or Concerns,	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Looksan Tea Co. Ltd.		
Sathgao	884	M/s. Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.
Premnagar T. E.	147	Private Garden.
Sreebari T. E.	325	Messrs. National Agency.
Maulvie T. E.	607	Private Garden.
Parkul	460	Do
Manu-Doloi.	17735¹	
Doloi Tea Co. Ltd.	599	" James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
Allynugger Tea Co. Ltd.		
Allynugger	1,754	
Chatlapore	1,247	
Patrakola Tea Co. Ltd.		
Kurmah	1,020	
Patrakola	1,113	" Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd.
Madabpore	765	
Champarai	943	
Dauracherra Tea Co. Ltd.		
Dauracherra	525	
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co. Ltd.		
Shumshernugger	2,800	" Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.
Deundi Tea Co. Ltd.		
Mertinga	424	" Planters Stores & Agency.
Gobindpore	555	
Kashinathpur	150	Private Gardens.
Mohespar	262	
Mid-Sylhet	12158	
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co. Ltd.		
Sagurnal	667	
Amalgamated Tea Estates Co. Ltd.		
Morapore	334	
Chargola Tea Assn Ltd.	4087 ¹	" James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
Hingajea	6944	
Dhamai Tea Co. Ltd.		
Dhamai	1012 ¹	
Kapnapahar	618	
Sonarpna	762	

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Clevedon Tea Co.	506	M/s. Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd.
Kaliti Tea Co., 412 }		
Lungla (Sylhet) Tea Co.	2539	" Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.
Etah 650 }		
Kartimpore 775 }		
Lungla 703 }		
Surma Valley Tea Co., Ltd.		
Silloah 836 }		
Rajkia 843 }		
New Samanbhag Tea Co.	3315	" Shaw Wallace & Co
Samanbhag 988 }		
Rajnagar Tea Co., 648 }		
Ruthema Tea Co., Ltd.		
Ruthma 546 }		" McLeod & Co.
Assam Consolidated Tea Estates Ltd.	588	" Andrew Yule & Co
Ghazipore 588 }		
New Sylhet Tea Co., Ltd.		
Phooltullah 1,191 }	1191	" Williamson Magor & Co., Ltd.
Parbutpore T. E.	512	
Holicherra T. E.	285	
Serajnagar T. E.	282 ¹	
Rungicherra T. E.	422	
Barkandli T. E.	213	
Bijoya T. E.	305	
Chhotalekha T. E.	184 ¹	
Luayuni T. E.	366	
Otterbhag & Indanugger T. E.	974 ¹	Private Gardens
Chandilbag T. E.	150	
Lakshmpur T. E.	29	
Muraicherra T. E.	325 ¹	
Phulbari Lungla T. E.	185	
Duckingsool & Lackicherra T. E.	214	
Kumarsail	174	
Pallathal	255	
Ameenabad T. E.	150	
Googalecherra T. E.	305	
	18106	

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Chargola		
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co, Ltd		
Goombira	1265	
Chargola Tea Association Ltd.	4216 $\frac{1}{4}$	M/s James Finlay & Co. Ltd.
Singlacherra	939 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Maguracherra	599 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Chargola	1,412	
East India & Ceylon Tea Co, Ltd.		
Dullabcherra	1,089	1839
Mookamecherra	750	„ Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd
Bidyanagar T. E.		846
Kalinagar T. E.		561
Mustafa T. E.		153
Chargola Valley T. E.		93
Longai		7708 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hattikhira Tea Co, Ltd.	2,153	
Isabheel Tea Co, Ltd.	1,000	
Longai Valley Tea Co, Ltd.		
Longai	850	6914
Chandkhira	941	„ Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd
Pathini Tea Co, Ltd.		
Pathini	1,379	
Piplagool	591	
Sephinjuri Bheel Tea Co, Ltd.		2159
Bhubrighat T. E.	651	„ Balmer Lawrie & Co.
Eraligool & Binodini T. E.	702 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Baitakhal	465	
Promodenagar	300	2795 $\frac{1}{4}$
Krishnagobind Harishchandra	85 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Aylabari T. E.	310	
Dilkhusa T. E.	284 $\frac{1}{2}$	
North Sylhet		11868 $\frac{1}{4}$
Consolidated Tea & Lands Co, Ltd		
Lulleecherra	1,522	2296
Jafflong	747	„ James Finlay & Co., Ltd.

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Sylhet Tea Co. Ltd. Malnicherra	687	M/s Barry & Co.
Lackatoorah Tea Co. Ltd.	1189½	" Gillanders Arbuthn ^o & Co.
Lallakhal T. E. Sreepore T. E. Chiknagool	295 143 120	558 Private Gardens.
Hailakandi		4703½
Manipore Tea Co. Ltd.	549	M/s Gillanders Arbuthn ^o & Co.
Kunchunpore Tea Co. Ltd.	600	
Kukicherra Tea Co. Ltd. Dholai	2079 1479	" Duncan Brothers & Co., Ltd.
Koyah Tea Co., Ltd.	772	" Macneill & Co.
Roopacherra Tea Co., Ltd.	618	" Begg Dunlop & Co.
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.		
Aenakhall Singalla Lallamookh Lallacherra	1363 766 866 630	5807 " Jardine Skinner & Co.
Central Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.		
Burnie Braes Serispore	739 657	
Chandypore Tea Co., Ltd.	786	
South Cachar T. E. Sonthalia T. E. Cutlacherra T. E. Appin T. E.	377 485 234 300	1395 Private Gardens.
Happy Valley		11221
Rangamati Tea Co., Ltd. Chandighat	688	M/s Duncan Bros & Co., Ltd.
Pathemara Tea Co., Ltd.		
Thaligram	493	
Eudogram Tea Co., Ltd.	1136	" Octavius Steel & Co.
Coombergram	643	

Names of Companies or Concerns	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Majagram Tea Co., Ltd. 463		
Doyapore Tea Co., Ltd. 463		
Cossipore Tea Co., Ltd. 644	1575	M/s Macneil & Co.
Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd.		
Koonber 1140	175 1/2	„ Begg Dunlop & Co.
Larsingah 614 1/2		
Cheerie Valley Tea Co., Ltd.		
Martycherra 463	465	„ Barry & Co.
Doologram Tea Co., Ltd.		
Doologram 438	438	„ McLeod & Co.
British Indian Tea Co., Ltd.		
Urrunabund 572 3/4	572 3/4	„ Balmer Lawrie & Co.
Arcttipore Tea Co. ...	861	„ Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co.
Pathecherra T. E. ...	633	Private Garden.
	8123 1/4	
North Cachar		
Patrakola Tea Co.		
Rampore 798		
North Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.	4217	„ Duncan Bros & Co.
Kurkoorie 936		
Bicrampore 888		
Dooloo Tea Co. 1594		
Doodputlee Tea Co.		
Hatticherra 973		
Majagram Tea Co.		
Subing 774	4087 3/4	„ Macneil & Co.
Kalline Tea Co. 509		
Western Cachar Tea Co., Ltd.		
Jellalpore 793		
Jetinga Valley Tea Co., Ltd. ...	429 1/2	„ Begg Dunlop & Co.
Craigpark Tea Co., Ltd. ...	400	„ Barry & Co.
Kallinugger & Khoreel Tea Co., Ltd.		
Khoreel 567	567	„ Jardine Skinner & Co.

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Loobah Tea Co., Ltd.		
Loobacherra	400	M/s Octavius Steel & Co. Ltd.
Kallinecherra	710	
Budderporo Tea Co.	523	Private Gardens.
Ballacherra T. E.	802	
Amranagar T. E.	150	
Sreekona T. E.	68	
	11274 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Chutla Bheel		
Anglo-American District Tea & Trading Co., Ltd.	596 $\frac{1}{2}$	" James Finlay & Co., Ltd.
Boro Jalinga	596 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Jalinga Tea Co., Ltd.		
West Jalinga	697	" Duncan Bros. & Co., Ltd.
Borokai Tea Co.	618	
Indian Tea Co. of Cachar Ltd.	3085 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Rosekandy	1,227	" Octavius Steel & Co., Ltd.
Rukni Tea Co.	516 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Derby Tea Co., Ltd.	1130	
Bhutbandhar Tea Co., Ltd.	769	" Macneill & Co.
Bengal United Tea Co., Ltd.		
Ruttonpore	753	" Jardine Skinner & Co.
Cachar & Dooars Tea Co., Ltd.	2670	
Silcoorie	1,255	
Poloi	662	" McLeod & Co.
Imperial Tea Co.		
Kuttal	620	
Sonai River Tea Co.		" Devenport & Co.
Monierkhal	633	
Chincoorie T. E.	...	" Villiers Ltd.
Dwarbund T. E.	446 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Noarbund T. E.	324	
Bag O'Bahar Tea Estate	406 $\frac{3}{4}$	Private Gardens.
	10965 $\frac{1}{4}$	

Names of Companies or Concerns.	Acreage.	Agency Houses.
Lakhipur.		
Tarapore Tea Co., Ltd.		
Labac	1,029	
Dewan	2,357	
Burtoll	1,279	
Barak Tea Co.		6802 M/s Macneill & Co.
Dilkooosh	449	
Scottpore Tea Co.		
Pallorbund	1,228	
Tilkah Tea Co.	1,043	
Eastern Cachar Tea Co.		1953 " Octavius Steel &
Binnakandy	920	Co. Ltd.
Brae & Chaingoor Tea Estate Ltd.		
Chingoor	709 $\frac{3}{4}$	709 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Gillanders
		Arbuthnot & Co.
Jhirighat Native Tea Co., Ltd.		Private Garden.
Jhirighat	447 $\frac{3}{4}$	447 $\frac{3}{4}$
		992 $\frac{1}{2}$

(63)

**Membership Acreage under various
Circle Committees.**

North Cachar	11,724 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lakhipur	9,922 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chutla Bheel	10,964 $\frac{1}{2}$
Happy Valley	8,123 $\frac{1}{4}$
Hailakandi	11,221
Chargola	7,708 $\frac{1}{4}$
Longai	11,868 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mid-Sylhet	18,106
Monu-Doloi	12,158
Balisera	17,735 $\frac{1}{2}$
Luskerpur	10,280 $\frac{1}{2}$
North-Sylhet	4,703 $\frac{1}{2}$
TOTAL ...	<u>134,515$\frac{1}{4}$</u>

